

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

E | Claim 13 (currently amended) In combination, seeds for germination, a packed tape comprising at least one folded tape and a package, characterized in that the tape carries the seeds and is zigzag folded into at least one oblong stack in such a manner that some of the bendings of the tape are flush with the ends of the stack whereas the remaining bendings are positioned at varying distances therefrom, thereby facilitating pulling the tape out of the package, characterized in that the packed tape comprises several stacks arranged in parallel, and that the package is selected from the group consisting of a plastic sheet and a cardboard box and that separating sheets are inserted between the stacks.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of producing a packed, flexible, folded tape and a package containing seeds for germination, characterized in that the tape carries the seeds and is advanced continuously from a tape supply to a packing location where said tape is zigzag folded by virtue of its weight and by means of side lowering means into at least one oblong stack

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on the bottom of the package formed as a bag or a box in such a manner that some of the bendings of the tape are flush with the ends of the stack and that the remaining bendings are positioned at varying distances therefrom, thereby facilitating pulling the tape out of the package, and that after the filling of the package the layers of the stack are compressed and the package is closed, characterized in that the side lowering means are formed by substantially vertical, endless, circulating lowering belts, the downward courses of said lowering belts opposing one another and being arranged at the ends of the stack, whereby the zigzag tape forms bendings as said downward courses are tangent to the outermost tape bendings.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the zigzag folding of the tape is carried out by means of at least one tape lowering means pivotally suspended above the packing location, whereby each tape lowering means comprises two co-acting endless circulating belts passing the tape downwards therebetween, and whereby the zigzag folding is controlled by the oscillating movement of the tape lowering means in combination with the tape laying speed.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 15, where the germinating tape comprises two layers of paper, characterized in that the tape is of a width corresponding to a maximum of 90% of the distance between the walls of the package.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the zigzag folding and the compressing of the tape to be packed is carried out in a compartment defined by the lowering belts and some side guides, and towards the bottom by a package placed on a stepwise, laterally displaceable support, whereby after the compressing of the tape the package can be rolled up and closed about the stack at the same time as the compartment is removed.

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Claim 20 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the bag used is made of shrink film, and that the package is subjected to a shrinking after its closing.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the packing is carried out under vacuum.

Claim 22 (currently amended): An assembly used in carrying out the method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that it comprises an upwardly and downwardly open compartment, the opposing ends of which are provided with side lowering means in form of endless circulating belts, where the belt courses facing the interior of the compartment move downwards, said assembly further comprising a frame surrounding the compartment and retaining and distending a package about said compartment, as well as a supporting means for the package, said supporting means being accommodated below the compartment and the frame and being separately adjustable in height and stepwise, laterally displaceable and

E further characterized in that it comprises at least one tape lowering means, which is level adjustable and movable in the vertical direction during operation, and which is pivotally arranged about a point of the upper end of said tape lowering means, and which comprises two abutting endless circulating belts, where the opposing belt courses run downwards, said assembly further comprising an electronic control unit for controlling the reciprocating movement of the tape lowering means and the adjustment in height and the stepwise, lateral displacement of a supporting means;

where the bag is made of shrink film, characterized in that it comprises a compressing means for the stack and a film shrinking equipment, of the hot air or heat radiation type.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)